## David Warren, D.V.M. Carol Warren, D.V.M.

1235 Hallemann Road Goliad, Texas 77963

Home: 361-645-3824 Cell: 361-212-3165

July 17, 2009

USEPA Region 6 Attn: Jose Torres 1445 Ross Ave. Ste. 1200 Mail Code 6WSG Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Re: Permit Application #UR03073 by Uranium Energy Corp.

Dear Mr. Torres,

I am writing to thank you for your past efforts to help us gain some control over the uranium industry. Please continue your fight for the rights and protection of landowners in Texas.

We are very unhappy and worried about the position the TCEQ has taken in regards to the protection of our only source of water. You know the horrible history the uranium industry has in the United States. Please do not allow this to occur in Goliad County. This aquifer provides life to our rural families. Without water, we cannot survive.

Please find attached a copy of the letter addressed to the Office of the Chief Clerk, TCEQ, requesting a public hearing and a contested case hearing. In our letter, we listed a few of our concerns regarding uranium mining in Goliad County. I hope you can understand why this is such an important issue for Goliad County residents.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

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July 15, 2009

LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Mail Code 105 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

RE: Permit Application #UR03075 for Uranium Energy Corp.
Request for public meeting for Production Area 1
Request for a contested case hearing for Production Area 1

Dear Ms. Castanuela and TCEQ Commissioners:

We are requesting a public meeting and a contested case hearing on Permit #UR03075 by UEC concerning Production Area 1.

We live within 4 miles of the proposed uranium mining sites. After much research about the uranium mining industry and in situ mining, we are convinced that mining cannot be safely done within our drinking aquifer for several reasons.

- First there is evidence that this is not a confined aquifer. This has been shown by several studies not financed by UEC.
- It is a well known fact <u>and</u> admitted by the uranium industry that it is impossible to return the mined aquifer to pre-mining quality, or even to a useable quality. That means a large amount of valuable water is ruined for generations.
- Mining uses millions of gallons of water. In south Texas we just do not have that kind of water to waste.
- Lack of monitoring of the mining site by outside sources provides this industry too
  many opportunities to not report problems. Allowing the permittee to monitor itself
  is at best risky, and allows for cover-ups, dishonesty, slow reporting of problems,
  and tampering of data.
- Inadequate regulations and lack of power to enforce meaningful penalties for contamination and damages allows this industry to destroy our environment and quality of life without any consequences.

We would like the opportunity to ask TCEQ, Texas Railroad Commission, EPA, and UEC questions regarding the safety of in situ mining and we would like answers that are true, meaningful, and direct.

What are you going to do to insure these mining fluids and by-products are not leaking to other water sands and down dip? Who will be monitoring this? How will it be monitored? What can be done to clean up the aquifer? What regulations will be in place to protect us? Who will form these regulations? Who will enforce these regulations? Are there going to be penalties that are severe enough to deter noncompliance? If the industry can scavenge off the desired product of uranium, why can't they also scavenge off the other products released by in situ mining and develop a market for them so they don't have to re-inject them into our water in their liberated, oxidized, active forms? Are there ways to mine the uranium that are not as toxic to the aguifer? What can be done to decrease the amount of water wasted by the mining? What can be done to stop surface contamination before it spreads? Who is monitoring surface contamination? What punitive damages can be given? Who decides what has been damaged? How can we dispute these damages? What protection do surrounding land owners have? How can existing agencies make better laws protecting us? How can you enforce these laws? How can we be assured the mining company will honor these laws? How can we be assured the mining will financially settle its damages? After the mining is complete, what guarantees do we have the site will be cleaned up and the aquifer restored? How can clean up be enforced? How can we be assured the water standards will not be lowered so the mining company can avoid cleanup (as this agency has previously done)?

From my understanding, most of the monitoring is to be performed by UEC with only one or two unannounced site visits per year by TCEQ. This is not acceptable. Your agency is charged with the responsibility of protecting our environment. As of now, it seems as if our laws are inadequate to protect us, and the laws seem to favor the uranium industry. Please do not grant this permit until there are better regulations designed to protect us, and better means of enforcing those laws.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Warren, D.V.M.

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Carol Warren, D.V.M.

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